

Amendment to the Specification

Please amend the Specification as shown below in paragraphs in mark-up format.

At page 29 line 31 *et seq.*:

According to various aspects of the present invention, a centrally located platform (e.g., a SOMA or concentrator access point) may communicate with neighboring platforms using slave/slave communication channels not part of the SAPs of the neighboring platforms used for slave/user traffic. The centrally located platform may provide its own SAP for slave/user traffic local to the centrally located platform. The SAPs for slave/user traffic may conform to any TP. For example, a portion of a region ~~1290~~ 1280 includes a centrally located platform 1281 (e.g., SIDA, SOMA, or PAU), and six neighboring platforms 1282-1287. SAPs for slave/user traffic for each platform 1281-1287 conform to any suitable TP of FIG. 7B (using channels A, B, and C) so that facing sectors use different channels and do not communicate. Slave/slave communication is accomplished using channels D and E arranged in sectors as shown in FIG. 12A. Here, facing sectors use the same channel to facilitate slave/slave communication. Specifically, sector 1292 of platform 1282 communicates on channel D with platform 1281 by virtue of facing sectors; sector 1293 of platform 1283 communicates on channel E with platform 1281 by virtue of facing sectors; sector 1294 of platform 1284 communicates on channel D with platform 1281 by virtue of facing sectors; sector 1295 of platform 1285 communicates on channel E with platform 1281 by virtue of facing sectors; sector 1296 of platform 1286 communicates on channel D with platform 1281 by virtue of facing sectors; and sector 1297 of platform 1287 communicates on channel E with platform 1281 by virtue of facing sectors. In one implementation, slave/user channels (A, B, and C) conform to IEEE 802.11B ethernet and slave/slave channels (D and E) conform to IEEE 802.11A ethernet.

Three wireless networks may be employed for routing user traffic and network control traffic according to various aspects of the present invention. For example, region 1200 of FIG. 12B includes two overlapping regions of the type discussed above with reference to FIG. 12A. The first such region is centered at central platform 1201 and the second at central platform 1211. As a first network, each central platform communicates with the other via a first path (links 1260 and 1262) and a second path (links 1264 and 1266). These paths pass through

platforms 1203 and 1204 respectively. As a second network, each central platform communicates with its neighbor slave platforms via radially disposed links: 1232-1242 from platform 1201 to NSs 1202-1207; and 1244-1254 from platform 1211 to NSs 1212-1215, 1204 and 1203 respectively. Each platform may service slave/user traffic on channels allocated in a suitable SAP so that users in one sector do not interfere with users in another sector.